

## IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) In a general-purpose computer system, a lending library apparatus comprising:
  - an electronic asset lending library database containing a plurality of user accounts and at least one license for an ~~unused~~ electronic asset ~~leased~~ assigned by a user having one of the plurality of user accounts;
  - an account manager to maintain the user accounts;
  - an asset manager to maintain the licenses for the ~~unused~~ electronic assets; and
  - a loan manager to control the ~~borrowing of~~ assignment of the license for the unused electronic asset by ~~to~~ another user having another one of the plurality of user accounts;
2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a notification manager to notify an assignee of the license for the electronic asset borrower when the loan manager approves a ~~loan~~ an assignment to the ~~borrower~~ assignee of the license for the ~~unused~~ electronic asset.
3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein:
  - the account manager further maintains a subset of the plurality of user accounts as members of a one of a plurality of communities;
  - the asset manager further maintains ownership of the license by one of the communities; and
  - the loan manager restricts the ~~borrowing assignment~~ of the license for the ~~unused~~ electronic asset to a ~~borrower~~ an assignee having a user account ~~membership~~ in the same community having ownership of the license.
4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 3-1, wherein:
  - the account manager further maintains a subset of the plurality of user accounts as members of a one of a plurality of access control lists;

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the asset manager further maintains an association between the access control list and the unused electronic asset; and

the loan manager further restricts the borrowing assignment of the license for the ~~unused~~ electronic asset to a ~~borrower~~ assignee having a user account listed in the an access control list associated with the ~~unused~~ electronic asset.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the access control list restriction is overridden in response to a request by a ~~borrower~~ assignee not having a user account listed in the access control list associated with the ~~unused~~ electronic asset.
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the ~~borrower~~ assignee notification is an electronic message addressed to the ~~borrower~~ assignee and containing written instructions for installing ~~for downloading~~ the ~~unused~~ electronic asset.
8. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the notification is communicated over a communications network.
9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the communications network is the Internet.
10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising:  
an electronic distribution mechanism to ~~automatically~~ install the ~~unused~~ electronic asset on the ~~borrower's~~ assignee's computer in response to the ~~loan~~ approval of an assignment of a license corresponding to the electronic asset.
11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein a community is one of a plurality of types of intra-organizational entities, including a project team, department, or division.

12. (~~Currently Amended~~) ~~A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing: An article of manufacture comprising:~~  
~~an electronically accessible medium providing instructions that, when executed by an apparatus, cause the apparatus to~~  
~~managing manage a plurality of user accounts;~~  
~~managing manage at least one license for an unused electronic asset loaned assigned by a~~  
~~user having one of the plurality of user accounts;~~  
~~controlling control the borrowing assignment of the at least one license for the unused~~  
~~electronic asset by to another user having another one of the plurality of user accounts; and~~  
~~notifying notify the borrower assignee when e-learn an assignment to the borrower~~  
~~assignee of the license for the unused electronic asset is approved.~~
13. (Original) The computer-readable medium article of manufacture of claim 12, wherein  
~~the electronically accessible medium providing instructions that, when executed by the~~  
~~apparatus, cause the apparatus~~  
~~to managing manage the plurality of user accounts includes instructions to cause the~~  
~~apparatus to associating associate each user account with a one of a plurality of communities;~~  
~~to managing manage the license includes instructions to cause the apparatus to~~  
~~associating associate the license with a one of the plurality of communities and~~  
~~assigning assign the license to one of the plurality of user accounts; and~~  
~~controlling control the assignment of the at least one license further includes instructions~~  
~~to cause the apparatus to restricting restrict the borrowing assignment of the license to eligible~~  
~~borrowers assignees, wherein an eligible borrower assignee is associated with the same~~  
~~community as the license.~~
14. (~~Currently Amended~~) The computer-readable medium article of manufacture of claim  
 13 ~~having computer-executable instructions for further performing: wherein the~~  
~~electronically accessible medium providing instructions that, when executed by an~~  
~~apparatus, further cause the apparatus to~~  
~~displaying display the unused electronic asset; and~~

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reassigning ~~assign~~ the license of the unused electronic asset to another one of the plurality of user accounts in response to a selection of the unused electronic asset from the display by ~~a borrower~~ an assignee using the another one of the plurality of user accounts.

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable-medium~~ article of ~~manufacture~~ of claim 14 wherein: the electronically accessible medium providing instructions that, when executed by the apparatus, cause the apparatus  
managing manage the plurality of user accounts includes instructions that cause the apparatus to adding ~~add~~ or deleting ~~delete~~ each user account into at least one of a plurality of access control lists ~~or not~~;
- managing manage the license includes instructions that cause the apparatus to ~~associating~~ associate the unused electronic asset with a one of the plurality of access control lists, and controlling control the assignment of the at least one license further includes instructions that cause the apparatus to restricting ~~restrict~~ the borrowing ~~borrowing~~ assignment of a license to a borrower an assignee listed on the access control list to which the electronic asset is assigned.

16. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:  
 managing a plurality of user accounts;  
 managing licenses for a plurality of ~~unused~~ electronic assets;  
 receiving a request from a user of one of the plurality of user accounts to loan ~~assign~~ another ~~unused~~ an electronic asset to another user of another of the plurality of user accounts;  
 generating a license and associated license restrictions for the ~~another unused~~ electronic asset according to the restrictions specified by the user requesting the assignment ~~loan~~;  
 adding the license of the ~~another unused~~ electronic asset to the plurality of managed ~~unused~~ electronic assets; and  
 controlling the borrowing ~~assignment~~ of each license for the plurality of ~~unused~~ electronic assets ~~by a borrower~~ to an assignee having one of the plurality of user accounts.

17. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein:  
 managing the plurality of user accounts includes associating each user account with a one of a plurality of communities;

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managing the licenses includes associating each license with one of the plurality of communities and assigning each license to one of the plurality of user accounts; and controlling further includes restricting the ~~borrowing~~ assignment of licenses to eligible ~~borrowers, wherein an eligible borrower is an assignee who~~ an assignee who is associated with the same community as the license.

18. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the one of a plurality of communities is an organizational entity, including a division, department or team.
19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising displaying the plurality of ~~unused~~ electronic assets.
20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising receiving a selection of one of the plurality of ~~unused~~ electronic assets from the display by a ~~borrower~~ an assignee using one of the plurality of user accounts, approving ~~a team~~ an assignment of the ~~unused~~ electronic asset to the ~~borrower~~ assignee based on the license restrictions associated with the ~~unused~~ electronic asset, and reassigning the license for the ~~unused~~ electronic asset to the ~~borrower~~ an assignee's user account.
21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein:
  - managing the plurality of user accounts includes adding or deleting each user account into at least one of a plurality of access control lists ~~or not~~;
  - managing the license includes associating the ~~unused~~ electronic asset with a one of the plurality of access control lists; and
  - controlling further includes restricting the ~~borrowing~~ assignment of a license to a borrower an assignee listed on the access control list to which the electronic asset is assigned.
22. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method comprising:
  - managing a plurality of user accounts;

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generating a license and associated license restrictions for an ~~unused~~ electronic asset on a lending library server, the ~~unused~~ electronic asset ~~learned~~ assigned by a ~~lender user~~ having one of the plurality of user accounts;

displaying to a ~~borrower~~ an assignee having another one of the plurality of user accounts the license and associated license restrictions on a lending library client;

receiving a ~~borrower~~ an assignee's selection for the license and transferring the license to the ~~borrower~~ assignee if eligible in accordance with the associated license restrictions; and transmitting to the ~~borrower~~ assignee instructions for the installation of the ~~unused~~ electronic asset in compliance with the transferred license on the lending library client.

23. (*Original*) The method of claim 22, wherein the lending library server and the lending library client are connected to a communications network.

24. (*Currently Amended*) The method of claim 22, wherein the associated license restrictions require the ~~borrower~~ assignee to belong to a community, the community being the same community to which the ~~unused~~ electronic asset belongs.

25. (*Currently Amended*) The method of claim 24, wherein the associated license restrictions further require the ~~borrower~~ assignee to be listed on an access control list associated with the ~~unused~~ electronic asset.

26. (*Original*) The method of claim 24, wherein the community is an organizational entity, including a division, department or team.

27. (*Previously Amended*) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the electronic asset lending library database resides on a removable data storage device.

28. (*Previously Amended*) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the data storage device is a CD-ROM or a DVD-ROM.

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